

January 31, 2006 (from the original e-mail transmission via Lynn M. O'Leary, USCOE)

U.S. Army Engineer District
Sacramento Planning Division (ATTN: Ron Ganzfried)
1325 J Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Re. SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN DELTA ISLANDS & LEVEES, Response to RFP

Thank you for this opportunity to submit our initial concepts for funding in response to your Request for Project Proposal -- California Delta Levee System Integrity Program. This proposal is consistent with a recent resolution from the ABAG Executive Board, which is attached hereto, and with the draft Delta Levee Action Plan.

We look forward to partnering with the Corps of Engineers and the State of California and believe we bring a strong team to the effort. We also look forward to a discussion about the particulars of this project as you consider this and other proposals for funding in the coming year.

I will be in touch very shortly about the Statement of Willingness that you will need for processing.

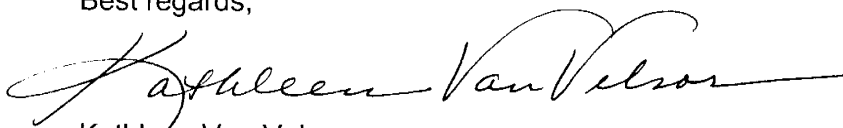
Please note that our study area map is useful to give the general area description, but incorporates watershed boundaries which are not germane to this project.

A full description of ABAG's functions and services and the San Francisco Estuary Institute's programs and projects can be found at the following links:

<http://www.abag.ca.gov/overview/programs.html>

<http://www.sfei.org/progprojhome.html>

Best regards,



Kathleen Van Velsor
Senior Environmental Planner/
Program Manager: Water and Land Use Planning Studies
Association of Bay Area Governments
101 Eighth Street, Oakland, CA 94607-4756
510-464-7959 FAX: 510-464-7970 KathleenV@abag.ca.gov

Enclosures

Cc:

Sergio Guillen, California Bay Delta Authority
Rainer Hoenicke, San Francisco Estuary Institute
Remy Goldsmith, Office of Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher

REQUIRED INFORMATION FOR EACH POTENTIAL INITIAL PROJECT

Please provide specific information for each potential initial project consistent with the following format.

Name and Purpose of Potential Initial Project: State a geographic reference and basic project purpose. For example: Bethel Island, reduce seepage through levee.

North Bay and South Bay areas affected by potential and actual levee failures: mitigate for possible damage to key infrastructure;

Delta areas affected by potential and actual levee failures: create environmental facilitation program to enable progress on repairs.

Location: Provide maps and illustrations to specify potential project location and footprint. Include nearest city/town and transportation corridor(s), physical characteristics and boundaries of the potential project.

See ABAG GIS infrastructure and land use maps, attached.

Problems: Specify known flooding, ecosystem, erosion, navigation, or other problems or needs at this site. Provide an assessment of the urgency to resolve problem(s). Is there an imminent threat to life and property? What is at risk in the future if the problem or need continues? Is the potential project part of a known existing project or program?

The recent Jones Tract levee failure in the Sacramento/San Joaquin Rivers Delta and the California Department of Water Resources flooding/earthquake scenario provide documentation of the high risk to water lines, sewerage facilities, roads, railroads, gas and other utility lines that serve portions of the Bay Area. In addition, the DWR evaluation spells out a serious domino effect on the Bay regional and state economy and social structures from levee failures.

Sediment management challenges due to contamination may delay the implementation of repairs, if they are recognized too late. This study will result in recommendations for how to remove such challenges and obstacles to the rapid implementation of needed repairs.

The attached ABAG Executive Board resolution is evidence of a high level of concern among locally elected officials about actual and potential Delta and other levee failures.

This proposed project is not currently a part of an existing project or program, but can easily be integrated into the Delta Risk Management Strategy, the California Water Plan, integrated regional water management plans, transportation improvement programs, and flood protection programs managed by each affected jurisdiction.

Opportunities: Specify what might be done at this site to reduce flood damages, protect water supply/conveyance, restore the ecosystem, improve water quality, etc. For example: reduce flood damages to a community or establish X acres of habitat.

The planned activities will assist with levee repair and rehabilitation in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta for the purpose of flood hazard mitigation and flood damage reduction to Bay Area infrastructure. The activities will also support associated environmental improvements in the Bay/Delta ecosystem.

Project Description: Describe the basic features of the potential project and desired outcome (i.e., reduce risk from flooding). For example: repair levees, reshape or construct channels, construct setback levees, and plant native vegetation. Identify any feature or combination of features that could function together to address the problems identified above. Specify any known or potential technical, financial, or institutional concerns. Provide supporting photographs and/or sketch, designs, and cost estimates, if available.

Specifically, the project will:

1) analyze the flood damage costs and flood hazard risks to Bay Area infrastructure associated with a range of levee impact scenarios, 2) assess sediment conditions and dredging and dredge disposal options in proposed or priority levee repair sites in order to facilitate levee repair work; 3) identify areas where establishment or restoration of marsh, channel, or upland habitat can mitigate for any damage to the Bay/Delta ecosystem from levee repair and rehabilitation work, and 4) identify non-structural flood control remedies with government partners to reduce flooding problems in the Delta while improving the condition of storm water runoff.

Expected Project Outcomes:

Reduced risk to critical Bay Area infrastructure from flooding and inundation;

Improved sediment management planning through sediment quality assessment;

Reduced risks to sensitive aquatic habitats from dredging and disposal dredging;

Non-structural flood damage reduction and mitigation strategies;

Environmental improvements through project modifications;

Facilitated levee repair and rehabilitation.

Known technical, financial, or institutional concerns include:

Length of time to obtain agreement on priority work sites, needed permits and environmental reviews;

Funding match requirements (although not an insurmountable problem given state funding match availability and if flexibility is built in to proposal review)

Statement of Willingness and Ability to Cost Share: Provide such a statement to support your proposed project as a basis for consideration and possible selection and further action in recognition of the requirements presented in the related paragraph above. A Letter of Intent to cost share will be required for any project proposed to Congress by USACE. See attachment for a sample Letter of Intent.

ABAG will require some additional time to secure the necessary agency approvals for the Statement of Willingness and Ability to Cost Share.

Estimated Cost and Time to Completion

Phase I : \$1.4 Million

Estimated two years to completion (coordinated with state and federal feasibility studies and work programs).

Contemplated Phase II project work will incorporate any work program modifications and seasonal work requirements.

Point of Contact & Agency Affiliation: Provide person's name and contact information (i.e., phone, e-mail) and other pertinent information about their agency/organization.

Kathleen Van Velsor, Senior Environmental Planner/Program Manager, ABAG
101 Eighth Street, Oakland, CA 94604
510-464-7959
KathleenV@abag.ca.gov

Please see attached summary of ABAG and its programs and the ABAG web site at www.ABAG.ca.gov along with background materials on our principal science advisors, the San Francisco Estuary Institute.

Scoping & Screening Information: Use your best judgment in providing the following information. Briefly explain your rationale.

- In your opinion, what is the urgency for your proposed project? Is there an imminent threat to life, property, critical habitat, or other prominent resource?

Five counties in the Bay Area rely on infrastructure in the Delta to supply them with water, gas, and key modes of transport. When levees fail, a significant threat to life, property, and critical Bay/Delta habitat and infrastructure resources is posed. Flooding and inundation in the Delta can critically impact two contiguous Bay Area counties.

- Would there be a change in the magnitude, frequency, or duration of flood flows in other areas of the levee system as a result of the potential project?

We propose to chart a course that will reduce the magnitude and frequency of flooding.

- What would the proposed project do to address flooding, ecosystem, water supply and quality, and other problems and needs locally and regionally?

1) Analysis of flood damage costs and flood hazard risks to Bay Area infrastructure associated with a range of levee impact scenarios;

2) Sediment quality survey in proposed or priority levee repair sites to accelerate 404 permitting and 401 certification for beneficial re-use of dredged sediment and other sediment quality issues;

- 3) Identify opportunities for ecosystem improvements to mitigate for impacts to the Bay/Delta ecosystem from needed levee repair and rehabilitation work;
- 4) Identify non-structural flood mitigation strategies to reduce flooding problems in the Delta;
- 5) Improving water quality by improving the condition of storm water runoff.

- Are there non-structural or other ways to address flooding, ecosystem, water supply and quality, and other problems in the potential project area and if so what are they?

Upstream and in-Delta land development stands to change the flooding frequency curve substantially. One of our jobs is to help develop practical ways to alter this trend in partnership with USCOE other government programs.

Non-structural approaches like vegetated swales, reductions in the amount of impervious surfaces through novel street and building design, clustered and well-placed development, a multiple-use approach to agricultural lands and retention basins offer important opportunities for this program.

- Who and/or what would benefit from the potential project?

The population, commerce and industry and governments of five potentially affected counties in the Bay Region would benefit. Key and critical infrastructure components would receive priority attention. Delta communities will benefit from enhanced cooperation and technical assistance. The ecosystem of the Bay/Delta would also benefit from new protections and enhancements to critical habitat, water and sediment quality.

- What is the likely Federal, State and local agency support?

We are still identifying key areas of support and will elaborate support options in short order.

- Are there any known challenges or obstacles that may delay rapid development and implementation of your potential project?

See response, above.

- Is your agency ready, willing, and able to serve as a non-Federal sponsor for this potential project, and able to provide required cost-sharing and other assurances?

Revised 2/6/06

See response, above.

Questions or Concerns: Please contact Ron Ganzfried at 916-557-5159 (Ronald.S.Ganzfried@usace.army.mil) or Lynn O'Leary at 916-557-7028 (Lynn.M.O'Leary@usace.army.mil) with any questions or concerns.

Complete & send your proposed initial project information summary by January 31, 2006 to:

**ASSOCIATION OF BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS
EXECUTIVE BOARD**

RESOLUTION NO. 10-05

**SUPPORT STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE ACTION
RELATED TO DAM AND LEVEE FAILURES**

WHEREAS, the recent New Orleans and gulf region tragic loss of life, homes and businesses makes the condition of the San Francisco Bay-Delta levees, Bay Area dams and other Bay Area water infrastructure of urgent and grave concern to the Association of Bay Area Governments;

WHEREAS, some scientists, engineers and planners in California have presented plausible dry and wet weather levee failure scenarios that put the San Francisco Bay Area communities at significant risk of essential infrastructure collapse or failure from catastrophic flooding – including roads, bridges, rail lines, gas lines, water lines and pumping stations;

WHEREAS, the State Department of Water Resources recently informed members of the Legislature and the Administration that a plausible magnitude 6.5 earthquake along the perimeter of the Bay-Delta will create a calamity – costing the region in lost lives, damaged communities, loss of livelihoods, damaged infrastructure, supply line interruptions, possible impacts to imperiled species, water service interruptions for two thirds of the state's population (including 4.6 million people that live in the five counties in the Bay Area that are dependent on Delta-based water deliveries);

WHEREAS, the 2004 Delta Jones Tract levee failure during dry weather illustrates the weakened condition of Bay-Delta levees which were not built to federal standards, and the cost to repair them and reconstruct lost infrastructure;

WHEREAS, ABAG has documented that 200,000 urban acres of the 1.1 million urban acres in the Bay Area is in the inundation area of at least one dam;

WHEREAS, preliminary estimates of cost to the regional economy from an earthquake-induced catastrophic failure of Bay-Delta levees range from \$30 to \$40 billion in the first five years to the California economy;

WHEREAS, the impacts of major catastrophes are not simply linearly related to the size of the impacted area, but rather can explode exponentially if infrastructure is impacted due to domino effects;

WHEREAS, local governments in the Bay Region do not currently have the capacity to undertake a massive program of short and long-range planning to

evaluate and protect existing water supplies and their conveyances from damage from natural disasters, or to fund programs aimed at local self-reliance in the event of sustained loss of infrastructure;

AND, WHEREAS, it is essential that the Association of Bay Area Governments support state and federal legislative policy and funding initiatives aimed at correcting these conditions in a manner that is environmentally, socially and economically feasible.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, DETERMINED AND ORDERED, as follows: that the Executive Board of the Association of Bay Area Governments work with federal and state legislative representatives to support current and future efforts to secure sufficient funding for planning and risk assessment activities aimed at prioritizing projects and programs to prevent loss of life, flood damage, and other catastrophic losses related to levee and dam failures, as well as for programs aimed at local self-reliance in the event of sustained loss of infrastructure due to such failures.

The foregoing adopted by the Executive Board this 17th day of November, 2005.

/s/ Scott Haggerty

Scott Haggerty
President

Certification of Executive Board Approval

I, the undersigned, the appointed and qualified Secretary-Treasurer of the Association of Bay Area Governments (Association), do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Executive Board of the Association at a duly called meeting held on the 17th day of November, 2005.

/s/ Henry L. Gardner

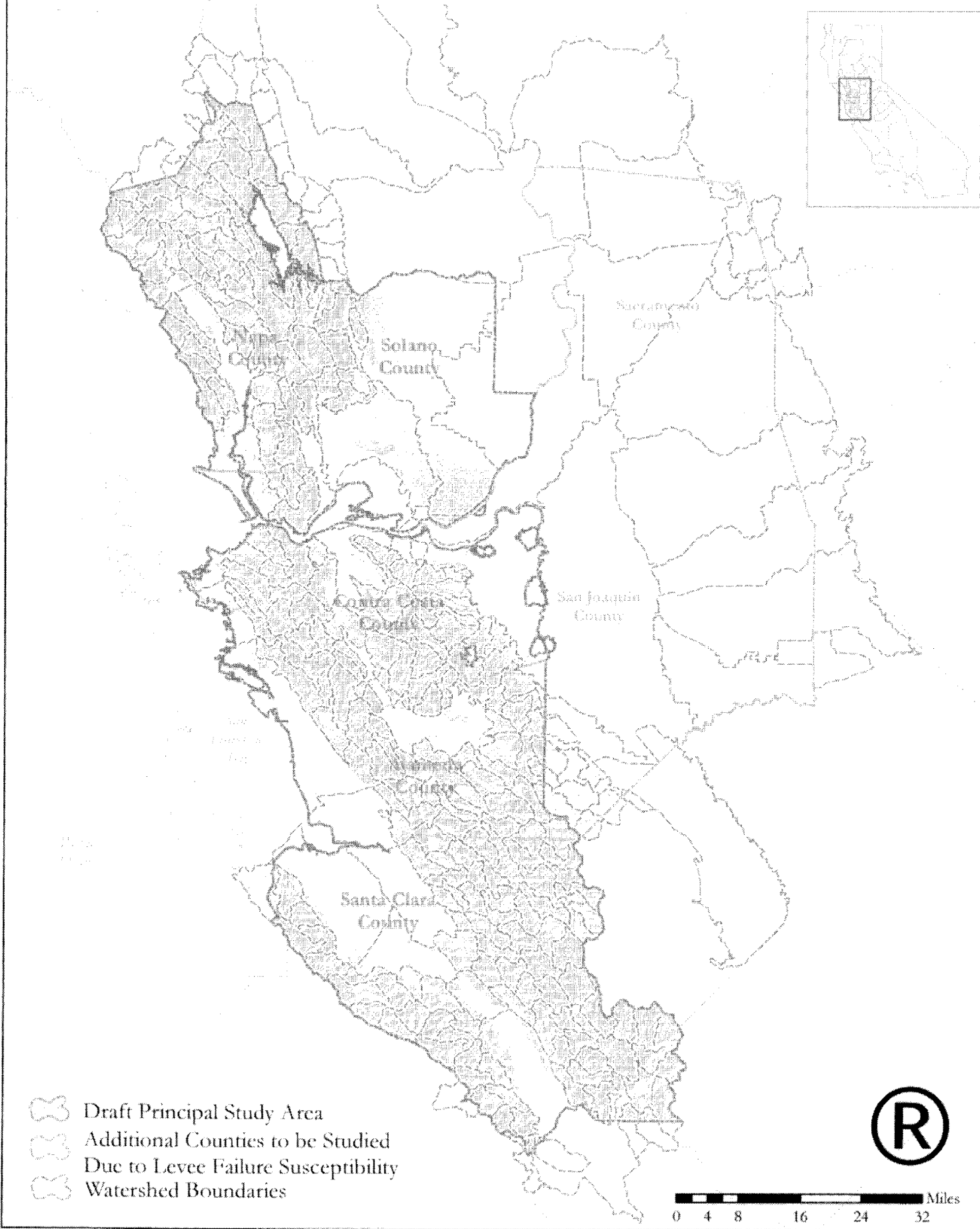
Henry L. Gardner
Secretary-Treasurer

Approval as To Legal Form

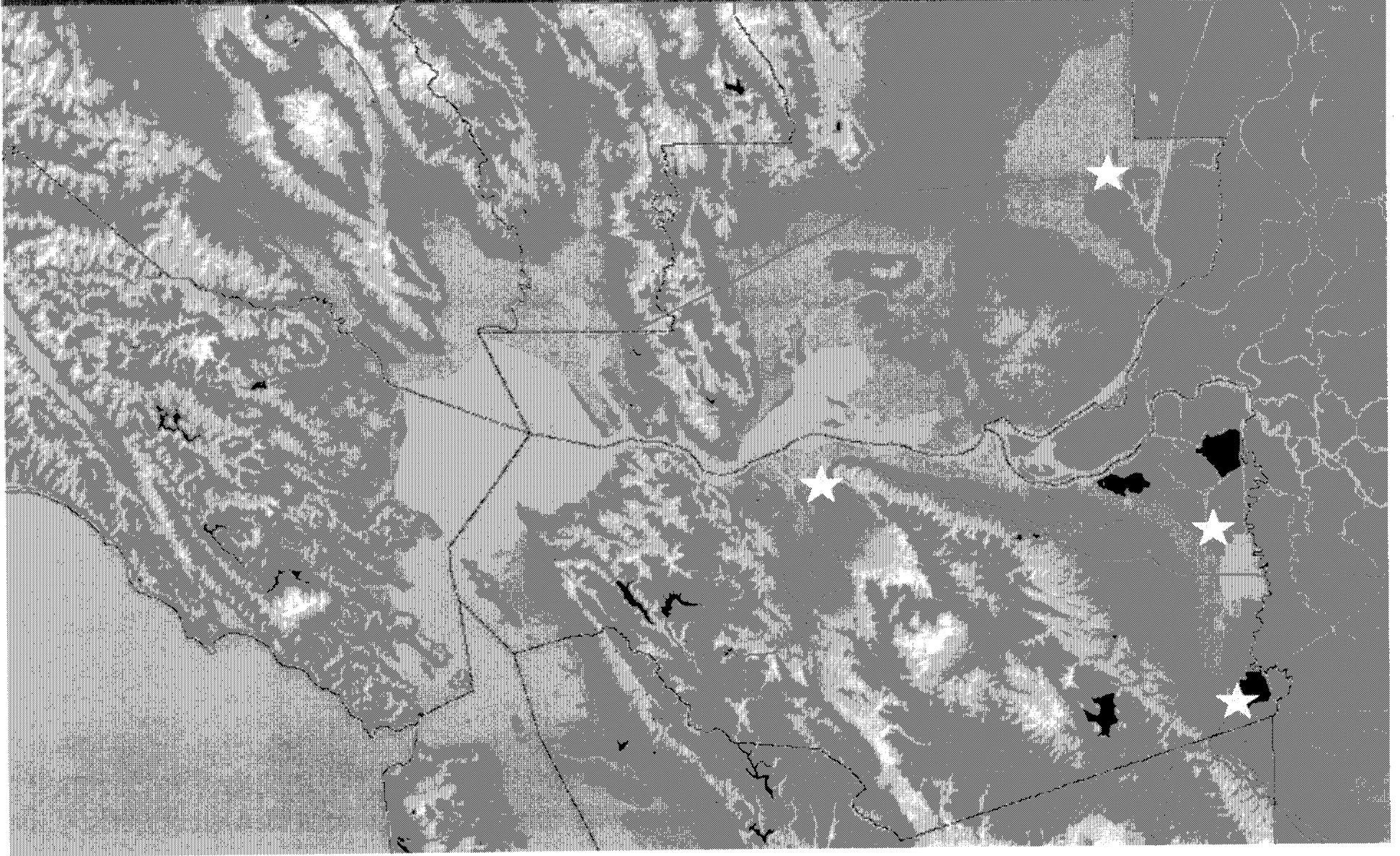
/s/ Kenneth K. Moy

Kenneth K. Moy
Legal Counsel

Draft Study Area: Urban Watersheds/Delta Levees Assessment



Water Lines and Intakes in the Bay-Delta

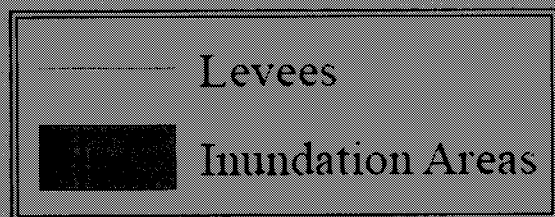


Assessed Value in Contra Costa County Delta Islands Inundation Areas

Improvements = \$1.4 billion

Land = \$1.1 billion

Hwy 4



0 0.5 1 2 3 4 Miles



San Francisco Estuary Institute

SFEI was founded as a non-profit organization in 1986 to foster the development of the scientific understanding needed to protect and enhance the San Francisco Estuary. We are governed by a Board of Directors comprised of Bay Area scientists, environmentalists, regulators, local governments, and industries.

SFEI fills the niche between environmental science and environmental management and policy for San Francisco Estuary and its watershed. We conduct science studies, synthesize data and information, and collaborate with other scientists to provide a holistic integration of information from many disciplines that supports management activities or demonstrates the potential implications of different management scenarios to environmental management agencies and other stakeholders.

SFEI's work is relevant to the primary issues currently facing the ecosystem, including industrial and municipal discharge, non-point source pollution, biological invasions, and watershed and wetlands restoration.

FACT SHEET

- WHAT:** The San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI) is an independent, non-profit organization charged to foster development of the scientific understanding needed to protect and enhance the San Francisco Estuary through research, monitoring, and communication.
- WHO:** SFEI has a small staff headed by an Executive Director, and is comprised of an interdisciplinary team of scientists, data analysts, and support personnel. SFEI is governed by a Board of Directors, representing the interests of Bay-Delta users, the public interest in environmental protection, and government agencies.
- WHEN:** SFEI was founded in September of 1994. Its precursor, the Aquatic Habitat Institute (AHI), was formed in 1986.
- WHY:** The San Francisco Estuary Project (SFEP), authorized by the federal Clean Water Act, in its development of a Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan for the Estuary, recommended the implementation of a comprehensive regional program to monitor the chemical, physical, and biological health of the Estuary. SFEP also recognized the need for an Institute to oversee the program. Measuring and tracking the condition of the Estuary, and developing understanding of its functioning is deemed necessary for sound management.
- An independent, non-profit organization governed by a broad-based Board of Directors was deemed the best way to produce objective scientific information that could be used to improve environmental decision-making. Since AHI was providing some, but not all of the needed functions, it accepted the new mandate, reorganized to meet the needs expressed by SFEP, and formed a new Board of Directors and advisory committees.
- WHERE:** SFEI's offices are located at 7770 Pardee Lane, 2nd Floor in Oakland, CA. 94621 The geographic focus of SFEI is the entire San Francisco Bay - Sacramento/San Joaquin River Delta estuarine ecosystem.
- HOW:** **There are 7 programs within SFEI:**
- Historical Ecology**—Analyzes historical landscape change as a basis for goals-setting, restoration design, and identifying long-term landscape alternatives.
(*Projects: Historical South Bay GIS • BayBoards • Historical Ecology/Landscape Change Analyses: Santa Clara Valley, Rodeo Lagoon, San Lorenzo Creek, Wildcat Creek, Sonoma Valley, Napa River Watersheds*)

Watershed Science—Studies the physical and ecological processes governing watershed function to improve resource management decisions.

(Projects: Napa River sediment TMDL • Napa River Watershed assessment • Crow Canyon Creek Historical Ecology and Geomorphology • North Bay nutrient and pathogen TMDL study • Fluvial geomorphology and hydrology of La Honda Creek • Guadalupe River watershed sediment and contaminant loads • Urban runoff best management practices (BMPs) for reducing the loads of PCBs and Mercury)

Wetlands Science—Evaluates wetland policies, programs, and projects in the region.

(Projects: Coastal Wetlands Assessment Initiative • SF Bay Area Regional Wetlands Monitoring Program • CALFED Wetland Monitoring Pilot • Scientific advice and review teams: Montezuma, Bolinas, Crissy Field, South Bay salt ponds)

Biological Invasions—Studies the introduction, spread, and management of exotic organisms.

(Projects: SF Bay Rapid Assessment Survey • Exotics Field Guide • Detecting and monitoring marine invasions • Impacts of cordgrass invasion on saltmarsh birds)

Contaminant Monitoring and Research (CMR)—Conducts studies of contaminant loadings, fate, and effects in the SF Estuary.

(Projects: CISNet San Pablo Bay Study • NOAA – EMAP San Francisco Bay Study • Indicators of Estuary Condition • SWRCB Benthic Biocriteria)

Regional Monitoring Program for Trace Substances (RMP)—Monitors contaminant concentrations in water, sediments, fish and shellfish in SF Bay and the Delta.

(Projects: Status and trends in contaminant concentrations • Sources, pathways, and loadings of contaminants • Effects of contaminants • Compliance with water quality objectives and other guidelines)

Information Technology—Provides public access to scientific data and information about the San Francisco Estuary and its watersheds.

(Projects: Wetlands Project Tracker • EcoAtlas Information System • GIS analysis • Website technologies • Data management)